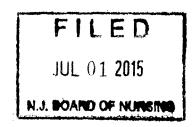
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LICENSE # NO 07404100

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION :

Administrative Action

OR RECOVATION OF THE LICENSEE OF :

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

MICHELLE FREILING, R.N. : OF LICENSE

:

TO PRACTICE AS A REGISTERED NURSE (R.N.) IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("Board") upon receipt of information indicating the following:

- 1. Respondent, Michelle Freiling, is the holder of License No. NO 07404100 and is a registered nurse in the State of New Jersey.
- 2. Respondent entered into a private letter agreement with the Board which she signed on or about February 14, 2015. (Exhibit A) The agreement required respondent to enroll in the Recovery and Monitoring Program of New Jersey (RAMP), undergo

evaluation and monitoring, agree to follow recommendations by RAMP for further treatment, and to refrain from the use of any and all potentially addictive substances. (Exhibit A, $\P2$, 6, and 10) The agreement was to have the force and effect of a Board Order within the intendment of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4. In the event that the Board received reliable information that respondent had acted in violation of the RAMP contract and/or the agreement, the agreement was no longer to remain confidential.

- 3. In a communication dated April 15, 2015, RAMP case manager Jillian Scott advised the Board that respondent was noncompliant with RAMP monitoring requirements, in that she tested positive for alcohol on February 25, 2015. She underwent evaluation at Seabrook House and outpatient treatment was recommended. Ms. Freiling wrote to RAMP in April of 2015, advising RAMP that she had not anticipated the cost or duration of her participation in RAMP, and that she would no longer be participating in RAMP. (Exhibit B)
- 4. On or about June 11, 2015, a letter issued by overnight and regular mail to respondent at her address of record, advising respondent that the Board had received credible information indicating that she was not in compliance with the private letter agreement, and advising her to forward within

five days any proof that she was currently in compliance with RAMP. (Exhibit C)

- 5. In a writing dated June 19, 2015, respondent maintained that her substance abuse screenings were negative, that she did not have a substance abuse problem, and that she had been erroneously diagnosed as suffering from anxiety disorder. Respondent also provided a purported transcript of a message left by a RAMP case manager on her voicemail after she resigned from RAMP. (Exhibit D)
- 6. A certification from RAMP's director dated June 20, 2015 indicated that after respondent tested positive for alcohol on February 25, 2015, she was evaluated at Seabrook House, and on March 20, 2015 she was diagnosed with alcohol abuse and anxiety disorder. The certification notes that outpatient treatment was recommended, and a five-year RAMP contract was sent to respondent. Respondent then wrote a letter to RAMP, indicating she would no longer be participating in RAMP.
- 7. The private letter agreement signed by respondent, which by its terms has the force and effect of a Board order within the intendment of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4, provided for automatic suspension of respondent's nursing license upon receipt of reliable information indicating that respondent has

violated any term of the private letter agreement. (Exhibit A, $\P13$)

8. Respondent's unilateral decision to cease participation in RAMP, despite the fact that the private letter agreement required her to follow recommendations by RAMP for further treatment, constitutes a violation of the terms of the private letter agreement, and consequently a violation of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4, subjecting respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).

Accordingly,

IT IS on this /5[†] day of July , 2015 HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 1. Respondent's license to practice nursing in the State of New Jersey shall be and hereby is suspended for her violation of the private letter agreement, which is deemed a violation of a Board order within the intendment of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4 and N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).
- 2. Respondent may, under the terms of the private letter agreement, upon notice, request a hearing on the sole issue of whether respondent has failed to comply with the terms of the private letter agreement.
- 3. In the event that respondent seeks reinstatement of her New Jersey nursing license at any future time, the Board shall not entertain any application for reinstatement without

respondent's demonstrating to the satisfaction of the Board that she is fit and competent to practice nursing without posing a risk to the public.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

Ву:

Patricia Ann Murphy, Board President